

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02778 161706Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----170318Z 021778 /14  
R 161413Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1666

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2778

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND AID ASSISTANT  
ADMINISTRATOR WHEELER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, JO, US  
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PROJECTS AND PEACE EFFORTS

REF: STATE 107690

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT AT THE SECOND MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND KING HUSSEIN THE KING RAISED THE QUESTION OF U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A PROPOSED DEAD SEA POTASH FACILITY AND DAM SITE ON THE YARMOUK RIVER AT MAQARIN. THE PRESIDENT RESPONDED TO THE KING'S REQUEST BY ASKING FOR A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE MATTER. WE ASSUME THAT REF REFLECTS THIS REQUEST AND HOPE THE STUDY IS UNDERWAY.

2. WE WILL BE INCLUDING IN OUR ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION THAT WILL BE SENT TO DEPARTMENT/AID IN LATE MAY A PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR FY'79 THAT TOTALS \$127.5 MILLION AND INCLUDES \$50 MILLION IN LOAN ASSISTANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE POTASH FACILITY. IT WILL ALSO RECOMMEND \$50-\$75 MILLION IN FY'79 FOR MAQARIN AND A FY'80 PROGRAM THAT WOULD INCLUDE ANOTHER \$75 TO \$125 MILLION FOR MAQARIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 02778 161706Z

3. I AM STRONGLY PERSUADED THAT THE POTASH AND MAQARIN PROJECTS COULD CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIAL TO AN ENHANCEMENT OF STABILITY IN JORDAN AND TO CREATING THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT FOR MOVES TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THIS AREA. THEY WILL ALSO, BY IMPROVING STABILITY, REDUCE TEMPTATIONS TO RENEWED MILITARY ACTIVITIES. BOTH PROJECTS, EACH OF WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE A SUBSTANTIAL

JORDANIAN INVESTMENT, WOULD BE IMPORTANT TOKENS OF JORDANIAN COMMITMENT TO PEACE BECAUSE THEIR LOCATION (ADJACENT TO ISRAELI (NOT WEST BANK) TERRITORY) WOULD MAKE IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT IN THE CASE OF WAR AND HENCE, LIKE THE SUEZ CANAL INFRASTRUCTURE, THEY WOULD CONSTITUTE TANGIBLE REASONS FOR PRESERVATION OF CONTINUED PEACE AND GOOD BEHAVIOR IN THE AREA. ADDITIONALLY, MAQARIN HAS REGIONAL IMPORTANCE BECAUSE IT WOULD BENEFIT ISRAEL AS WELL AS JORDAN BY ASSURING A CONTINUED FLOW OF AN AGREED-UPON AMOUNT OF WATER FOR CERTAIN AREAS OF ISRAELI IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE. THUS, IT HAS THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING AN ACTIVITY OF AT LEAST TACIT COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND AN ARAB STATE. THE POTASH PROJECT HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR BEING ONE OF THE FIRST ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THERE MIGHT BE SOME CROSS-OVER OF TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND AN ARAB NEIGHBOR. (ISRAEL HAS A LARGE, ONGOING POTASH PLANT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DEAD SEA WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, EMPLOYS HIGHLY-DEVELOPED POTASH PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES.) IT ALSO HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT ISRAELI-JORDANIAN INFRASTRUCTURE, I.E., A COMMON DIKE IN THE DEAD SEA AND OTHER CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS WHICH WOULD TAKE MUTUALLY INTO ACCOUNT FLOWS OF FRESH WATER FLOODS WHICH COULD AFFECT PROJECT AREAS.

4. ALTHOUGH I AM RECOMMENDING THAT BOTH POTASH AND MAQARIN BE ADDRESSED IN THE FY'79 PROGRAM, I BELIEVE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 AMMAN 02778 161706Z

THAT WE SHOULD LOOK VERY CAREFULLY TOGETHER AT WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR MAQARIN, AT LEAST, AND PERHAPS POTASH AS WELL, TO BE SEPARATED OUT FROM THE REGULAR ANNUAL PROGRAM (WHICH WOULD BE \$77.5 MILLION IN FY'79, AND \$50-\$77.5 MILLION IN FY'80 - DEPENDING ON THE AMOUNT FOR MAQARIN) AND PRESENTED UNDER THE RUBRIC OF THE MIDDLE EAST SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND (MESRF), A CATEGORY CREATED IN THE LEGISLATION SEVERAL YEARS AGO ESPECIALLY AS A MEANS TO ADVANCE STEPS TOWARD PEACE. BREAKING ONE OR BOTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES OUT OF THIS PROGRAM IN THAT FASHION WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE TO THE PURPOSES OF THE MESRF AND HELP TO FORESTALL IMPLYING TO THE JORDANIANS THAT WE INTEND EVERY YEAR TO PLAN PROGRAM LEVELS IN EXCESS OF \$100 MILLION. AS YOU KNOW THERE IS A RATCHET PRINCIPLE WHICH TENDS TO OPERATE ON GENERAL AID LEVELS MAKING FUTURE YEAR REDUCTIONS DIFFICULT.

5. WE WOULD SUGGEST AIMING FOR PRESENTATION TO GOJ,

AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS  
(PERHAPS DURING A POSSIBLE VISIT BY CROWN PRINCE TO  
THE U.S. IN LATE SUMMER, EARLY AUTUMN), OF (A)  
EXECUTIVE BRANCH COMMITMENT FOR PRESENTATION OF REQUEST  
FOR POTASH AND MAQARIN FUNDING, IN THIS YEAR FY'79 PROGRAM  
SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS, AND (B) A MORE GENERAL  
ENGAGEMENT TO TRY TO INCLUDE MAQARIN IN THE FY'80  
SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.

6. PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR REACTION TO THESE IDEAS.  
PICKERING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, CONSTRUCTION, DAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977AMMAN02778  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770174-0255  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** AMMAN  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770555/aaaabvcc.tel  
**Line Count:** 127  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 37344693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 107690  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2512133  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JORDANIAN PROJECTS AND PEACE EFFORTS  
**TAGS:** EAID, PFOR, JO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/37344693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009